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Docket No.: 09867/0200046-US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Shoji Mori

Application No.: 10/665,379

Confirmation No.: 5023

Filed: September 18, 2003

Art Unit: 2135

For: CERTIFICATION PROCESSING
HARDWARE, CERTIFICATION
PROCESSING SYSTEM AND USE
MANAGEMENT HARDWARE

Examiner: H. Song

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 24, 2007, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I: claims 1-4 and 6-9 for continued examination, with traverse.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Claims 1-10 are pending. The Examiner has required election of one of the following two inventions.

- I: Claims 1-4 and 6-9, drawn to encryption key transmission and device certification, classified in class 713, subclass 173.
- II: Claims 5 and 10, drawn to hardware management system, classified in class 709, subclass 223.

In response, Applicant elects Group I, and claims 1-4 and 6-9 as readable on Group I. Further, the outstanding election requirement is respectfully traversed for the following reason.

MPEP §803 states the following:

If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Though, in the present application, claims 1-4 and 6-9 in Group I, and claims 5 and 10 in Group II are indicated to be in two different classes, those two classes would appear to be close enough for an effective search without serious burden. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search all the claims under MPEP §803, and traverses the Restriction on the grounds that a search and examination of all the claims in the application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single disclosed invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of each of claims 1-10 be conducted. Thus, claims 1-4 and 6-9 are elected **with traverse**.

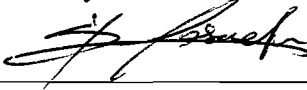
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, withdrawal of this Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

An early examination is respectfully requested.

Dated: February 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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